



Sprue Bits

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Nate's Notes

By Mike Staworski, Vice-President IPMS/MOSS

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Welcome back to Sprue Bits. This edition of Nate's Notes is being written by Mike Staworski in Nate's absence. For those who have not yet heard, Nate has been deployed to Afghanistan as part of his U.S. Army Reserve service. He is currently assigned to Bagram Air Base and is hoping to be back in time for MOSS CON 2013. Nate has promised to check out some of the models and tools we helped to send overseas as part of the IPMS Support the Troops Initiative. Now I know why he was so excited to get deployed!

As with all military operations, nothing is guaranteed and subject to change without notice. Thankfully, Nate is not without some of the comforts of home, including e-mail and snail mail. If you have a moment and would like to send a message to him, he

"I'm a success today because I had a friend who believed in me and I didn't have the heart to let him down."

- Abraham Lincoln

President's Day is February 18th



will be checking his e-mail as time allows, or you can send him a letter to:

Capt. Nathanael Jones
333rd MP BDE/TF Titan
BAF/Sabalu-Harrison
APO AE 09354

Please keep Nate and his family in your thoughts and prayers while he is away. I'm sure Nate would love to hear from his friends in MOSS and it would certainly be a morale boost to get a quick "hello" from home.

Do you have any tips, techniques, or ideas for an upcoming meeting? Let me know, we'd love to hear how you make your models "yours".

January 2013 Meeting

By Mike Staworski

January 27th marked the first MOSS meeting of 2013. Nate, Don, Dwain, Rusty, Steve, Mike S. (1 and 2), and Gary were in attendance. Among the topics we discussed were Nate's announcement, a little show & tell, where inspiration for models springs up, and some ideas for MOSS CON 2013.

For show & tell, Mike Steenstra brought his 1/35th scale Nemrod U.S. Army Airborne figures. They were still "in-progress", but they'll be landing soon in another of Mike's awesome dioramas. Mike also brought three new kits he received for Christmas; Bronco's new 1/35th scale Jeep with trailer (the box art shows a rider who looks suspiciously like John Wayne, but Mike says the figure looks nothing like it), a Dragon 105MM Gun, and an AFV Club 3in Anti-tank Gun. Dwain had a very nice collection of M3 Lees plus a Dragon M3 Lee and Tamiya M4A3 Sherman, both still in the box. I also saw a Studebaker change hands from Gary's seemingly bottomless Studebaker collection. I'm starting to think Gary has more Studebaker kits than



Dwain's very nice M3 Lee Collection.



cars Studebaker ever produced!

Mike Staworski talked about some of the placed he finds inspiration for models. An AFV Club M35A1 Gun Truck was inspired by seeing Vietnam Veteran “Ace of Spades”, an actual gun truck used during the Vietnam War. If one M2 .50 caliber machine gun is nice, four is absolutely awesome! And loud, too. An AMT 1962 Pontiac Catalina was inspired by meeting Arnie “The Farmer” Beswick in 1999. He was very nice to talk with and what a great history he has.

Some of the ideas mentioned for MOSS CON 2013 included finding more sponsors, getting the word out sooner, and handing out an updated brochure as well as designing a new poster. Gary stepped up and offered to spread the new publications around the state during his travels. If you have any other ideas on contacting new sponsors or vendors, or how to spread the word about MOSS CON and MOSS in general, drop me a line.

February 2013 Meeting

Mark your calendar for the February meeting! This is going to be something special for MOSS as we have worked a deal with the Branson Veteran’s Memorial Museum for a group rate. Given the museum’s hours, the time for the meeting has been changed to 2p.m. (1400 hours for those who prefer) on Sunday the 24th. The price for admission is \$11.00/person, which is a good value for the history contained in the museum as well as the potential for inspiration or research material. The museum is located on West State Highway 76 (The Strip) about one mile west of the U.S. 65 Highway exit. Cameras are welcome and I look forward to seeing you there!

*Sunday February 24th at
2p.m. Branson Veteran’s
Memorial Museum 1250
W. State Highway 76*

Upcoming Region 5 Events

March 9, 2013

Cottage Grove, WI

Madcity Modelers Model Show (Region 5 Regional Convention) 

Doubledays


4586 Baxter Rd. [Map](#)

Madcity Modelers

[Rob Teubert](#) 608-295-9258

March 23, 2013

Fairmont, MN

9th Annual Scale Model Show & Contest 

Five Lakes Centre Mall

308 South State Street [Map](#)

IPMS/South Central Modelers of Minnesota

[Dan Bauer](#) 507-822-3938

April 13, 2013

Ankeny, IA

SURGICON 19 

Lakeside Center

400 NW Lakeshore Dr. [Map](#)

IPMS Plastic Surgeons

[Aimee Wright](#) 515-292-3395



"We're making it a small world!"

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I WANT YOUR INPUT!



Would YOU like to contribute to the M.O.S.S. E-Newsletter? Please do! E-mail me your tip, technique, idea, comments, questions, classified ad, ANYTHING! This is YOUR newsletter! I want YOUR input!

The Last Bit

By Mike Staworski

As this was my first attempt at making the Sprue Bits Newsletter, I hope you don't judge me too harshly. I'm always welcome to suggestions and creative criticism, so don't hesitate to help me out.

If you have an idea, tip, technique, or article you would like to submit, send it to me in an e-mail and I'll see it gets included.

I know this is a little late, and some other responsibilities to MOSS have been placed on the back burner for now. But please bear with me, I promise it will get done. It makes me sad that I haven't been able to devote more time to MOSS and modeling in general lately. One of these days I'll actually be able to get back to my workbench.

In the meantime, belly-up to the bench, unwrap that long forgotten kit, open a new bottle of CA (keep that de-bonder close by!) and just enjoy the hobby. Never be afraid to try that new technique or venture out of your comfort zone and build a kit of something you never thought you would (or could). You just may surprise yourself at how well you did!

See you at the bench!

